

Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 T-03

IO-12 AID-20 RSR-01 /115 W
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P 201200 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0562

INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

CJCS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

USDEL FRANCE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

COMUSMACV PRIORITY

COMUSMACHTAI PRIORITY

COMUSSAG PRIORITY

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 2517

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CB

SUBJECT: PHNOM PENH SITUATION

REF: PHNOM PENH 2478

1. SUMMARY. PHNOM PENH' S CALM WAS DISTURBED TODAY ONLY BY RUMORS OF NEW OR IMPENDING ARRESTS, MOST OF WHICH HAVE PROVED FALSE. THE MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED SAFELY, AND THE AIR FORCE CHANGED COMMANDERS. END SUMMARY.

2. SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONS TO THE CONFIRMED LIST OF THOSE PICKED UP FOR QUESTIONING AND PERHAPS DETENTION INCLUDE THE THREE SONS AND A BUSINESSMAN FRIEND OF THE GRUNK PRIME MINISTER PENN NOUTH AND KEO AN, FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, WHO ADVOCATED SIHANOUK' S RETURN AS A PRIVATE
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CITIZEN AND WHO HAS INSTIGATED STUDENT PROTESTS. THE DIRECTOR OF THE CAMBODIAN ELECTRICAL COMPANY CHHUT CHHOEUR HAS LOST HIS JOB, BUT THE REASONS ARE AS YET UNKNOWN. AMONG THOSE WIDELY BUT FALSELY RUMORED TO BE ARRESTED ARE BRIGADIER GENERAL NORODOM CHANTARANGSEY AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER DELEGATE SIRIK MATAK.

3. NOT A SHOT WAS FIRED AT THE MEKONG CONVOY, THE LAST SHIP OF WHICH ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH AT 1700 TODAY. ONE SHIP WENT AGROUND ABOUT 13 MILES SOUTHWEST OF THE CITY, HOWEVER, AND EFFORTS ARE NOW BEING MADE TO REFLOAT IT. HEAVY PREEMPTIVE FIRE FROM THE RIVER AND THE AIR UNDOUBTEDLY AIDED SAFE PASSAGE OF THE CONVOY, WHICH CONSISTED OF THREE CARGO SHIPS, FOUR TANKERS AND THREE TUGS WITH SIX BARGES (INCLUDING ONE AMMUNITION BARGE).

4. COLONEL PENN RANNDAS WAS SWORN IN AS NEW CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE TODAY. AIR FORCE OFFICERS SUSPENDED FROM THEIR POSITIONS BECAUSE OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE ROYAL FAMILY WERE AMONG THOSE ATTENDING THE CEREMONY. ONE OF THE FIRST ACTS OF THE NEW COMMANDER WAS TO RESCIND THE ORDER GROUNDING T-28 FLIGHTS.
SWANK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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30 JUN 2005

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